

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IT

SUBJECT: US-ITALY ENERGY WORKING GROUP: AGENDA FOR  
DECEMBER 9 MEETING

1) THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE  
DECEMBER 9 MEETING OF THE ENERGY WORKING GROUP, WHICH  
WE HAVE WORKED OUT WITH THE ITALIAN EMBASSY AND THE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE):

(1) GENERAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS (INTRODUCTORY/BACKGROUND  
SECTION).

A. STATUS OF US ENERGY PROGRAM  
B. ITALIAN ENERGY SITUATION

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C. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY  
DEVELOPMENTS (OPEC MEETING, IEA ISSUES).

(2) NATURAL URANIUM

A. AVAILABILITY. DOE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT  
AVAILABILITY OF YELLOW CAKE ON THE US MARKET. WE ARE

ALSO INTERESTED IN HAVING ITALIANS REPORT ON THEIR OWN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN NATURAL URANIUM SUPPLIES, FOR EXAMPLE,

RESULTS OF THEIR SOUNDINGS WITH THE AUSTRALIANS (SEE ROME 14340).

B. NURE PROGRAM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ITALIANS CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN ASSIGNING A TECHNICIAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NURE (NATURAL URANIUM RESOURCE EVALUATION) PROGRAM. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE FROM PAST DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ITALIANS AND DOE (EX ERDA), POLICY TO DATE HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE EXTENSIVE BRIEFINGS ON THE PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN OBSERVERS BUT NOT TO ASSIGN FOREIGN TECHNICIANS TO THE PROGRAM ITSELF. THE MAJOR BARRIER TO MORE EXTENSIVE INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN DOE'S NEED TO CONTROL ACCESS TO PROPRIETARY INFORMATION GENERATED UNDER THE PROGRAM. (AGIP IS IN ACTIVE COMPETITION WITH US FIRMS BOTH HERE AND OVERSEAS IN THE SEARCH FOR URANIUM.) DOE IS REVIEWING NURE ACTIVITIES TO SEE IF THERE ARE SOME ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM IN WHICH THE ITALIANS COULD PARTICIPATE; AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, DOE IS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO FIND ANYTHING. FYI: DOE HAS NOTED THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE NOT PLAYED A VERY ACTIVE ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL URANIUM RESOURCE EVALUATION PROGRAM (IUREP), NOW IN PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE AEGIS OECD NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IEA, ALTHOUGH ITALY IS ON THE STEERING GROUP OF THAT PROGRAM. (THE IUREP IS SIMILAR TO THE NURE BUT INTERNATIONAL IN SCOPE).

### 3. NUCLEAR

A. EXPANSION OF THE PORTSMOUTH URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITIES -- POTENTIAL FOR ITALIAN INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION. THE ITALIANS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY IN PARTICIPATING IN THE EXPANSION OF THE PORTSMOUTH FACILITIES. THEY HAVE SPECIFICALLY ASKED TO BE PUT IN TOUCH WITH THE DESIGNER OR THE PRIME CONTRACTOR OF THE PORTSMOUTH PROJECT. DOE IS PREPARED TO HANDLE THIS. HOWEVER, SINCE THE NEW FACILITY AT PORTSMOUTH WILL EMPLOY CENTIFUGE TECHNOLOGY, WHICH IS EVEN MORE CLASSIFIED THAN GASEOUS DIFFUSION TECHNOLOGY, THE POTENTIAL ROLE FOR THE ITALIANS IS PROBABLY QUITE LIMITED.

B. PROSPECTS FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT.

DOE WILL WANT TO EXPLORE THE AREAS IN WHICH AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION COULD BE USEFUL. WE, THEREFORE, HOPE THAT THE ITALIANS WILL BE ABLE TO DESCRIBE THE WORK THEY HAVE BEEN DOING IN THIS FIELD; IN THIS REGARD SEE ROME 10166.

C. PROVISION OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES. IF OUR NEW STANDARD CONTRACT FOR PROVISION OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES IS APPROVED BEFORE THE MEETING, DOE WILL DISCUSS IT IN SOME DETAIL. OTHERWISE, WE CAN TALK ONLY GENERALLY ABOUT THIS SUBJECT.

4. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES (SOLAR, GEOTHERMAL, BIOMASS, SYNFUELS, AND FUSION).

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A. IEA ACTIVITIES. WE WILL DESCRIBE ONGOING IEA R AND D PROGRAMS AND ENCOURAGE THE ITALIANS TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THEM.

B. PRESENT US-ITALIAN BILATERAL EFFORTS. WE WILL DISCUSS THE PROGRESS OF OUR TWO JOINT GEOTHERMAL PROGRAMS.

C. PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER COOPERATION. DOE IS PREPARED, IF THE ITALIANS SO DESIRE, TO MAKE A BRIEF PRESENTATION ON US ACTIVITIES IN THE FIVE FIELDS MENTIONED ABOVE WHICH THE ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS SUGGESTED AS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ITALY. WE HAVE ASKED THE ITALIANS TO DO THE SAME. WE WILL THEN TRY TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR FUTURE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. WE PREFER THAT BILATERAL PROGRAMS NOT DUPLICATE ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY IN THE IEA.

5) FINANCIAL. STATUS OF APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION FROM IMI AND ENEL. THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN A SEPARATE SESSION WITH EXIM DURING THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 9, WITH A REPORT TO THE PLENARY SESSION TO BE GIVEN IN THE AFTERNOON.

EMBASSY ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE DISCUSS THIS AGENDA WITH MIGLIUOLO. HE WILL ALREADY HAVE RECEIVED THE PROPOSED AGENDA IN OUTLINE FORM FROM THE ITALIAN EMBASSY. PLEASE REPORT ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS HE MAY HAVE WITH REGARD TO THE SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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